

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TOCY, MO

SUBJECT: R/V EASTWARD CLEARANCE REQUEST

REF: (A) RABAT 1197 (B) STATE 29152 (C) STATE A-579

1.A. IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL (A), R/V EASTWARD WILL BE CONDUCTING CONTINENTAL SHELF RESEARCH FROM 3-60 MILES OFF THE MOROCCAN COAST. OUR INTENT IS TO AVOID THE QUESTION OF DIFFERING U.S.-MOROCCAN TERRITORIAL SEA JURISDICTIONS AS WELL AS THE MOROCCAN CLAIMED 70 MILE ECONOMIC ZONE, WHICH WE DO NOT RECOGNIZE. REQUESTING PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON THE MOROCCAN CONTINENTAL SHELF SHOULD RAISE NO JURISDICTIONAL PROBLEMS FOR EITHER GOVERNMENT AND WILL ACCURATELY DESCRIBE PROPOSED EAST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WARD RESEARCH PROGRAM.

B. A COASTAL STATE IS ALMOST ALWAYS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CRUISE WHILE THE RESEARCH VESSEL IS OPERATING OFF ITS COAST. AFTER THE GOM EXPRESSES ITS INTEREST IN PARTICIPATING, THE QUESTIONS OF HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE WILL BE DECIDED. THE GOM PARTICIPANTS CAN BE

EMBARKED AND DISEMBARKED AT MOROCCAN PORTS BEFORE THE
SHIP PROCEEDS TO CONDUCT THE RESEARCH OFF ALGERIA.
PRESENTLY, THE RESEARCH PLANS DO NOT REQUIRE THIS BUT

PORT CALLS WILL BE SCHEDULED AS NECESSARY TO ACCOMMODATE
GOM PARTICIPANTS. HOWEVER, ALL HOST COUNTRY INTERESTS
HAVE TO BE EXPRESSED BEFORE ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

C. U.S. POLICY ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IS UNCHANGED.
THE U.S. RECOGNIZES A 3 NAUTICAL MILE TERRITORIAL SEA,
THE ARTICLES OF THE 1958 CONVENTION ON THE CONTINENTAL
SHELF, AND LIMITED CONTROLS OVER CERTAIN TYPES OF FISH-
ERIES RESEARCH OUT TO 200 MILES. CONTIGUOUS FISHING
ZONES OUT TO 12 NAUTICAL MILES, WHICH WERE HISTORICALLY
RECOGNIZED BY THE U.S., ARE STILL RECOGNIZED. CLAIMS
OF ECONOMIC ZONES OF VARYING DISTANCES ARE NOT RECOGNIZED
BY THE U.S. PENDING AN AGREED REGIME FROM THE LOS
CONFERENCE.

D. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 2 OF REFTEL A, IF WE PERCEIVE
THERE MAY BE A PROBLEM BECAUSE OF DIFFERING CLAIMS
OUR APPROACH MAY BE TO INFORM THE COASTAL STATE AND
TO INVITE THEIR PARTICIPATION. THIS IS DONE TO AVOID
CONFLICT BY GIVING THE COASTAL STATE AN OPPORTUNITY
TO RESPOND TO OUR INVITATION AND/OR VOICE ANY CONCERNS
THEY MAY HAVE. HOWEVER, THIS APPROACH DOES NOT
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CONSTITUTE A PUBLIC OR OFFICIAL POLICY BUT IS MERELY
ONE METHOD OF DEALING WITH A PROBLEM.

2. CONCERNING REFTEL (C), COPIES OF NOTES AND REPLIES
FOR EASTWARD CLEARANCE WOULD AID IN OUR ANALYSIS AND
WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SAME WHEN AVAILABLE ALONG
WITH ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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